

M. Johnson

Dear Avrion and Lorna—

Thank you so much for your letter. We are counting on visiting you and will write you from Stockholm on more precise plans; we might also ring you up from London after we've consulted the Stockers.

Too bad ~~you~~ my letter missed Seymour; Luca Cavalli missed him too, and by now everyone in Europe but he knows that his camera thought lost has been retrieved, and I'm sure he'd want to know about it.

Our arrangements with Stanford have just now been concluded, and very satisfactorily too. We won't move west until next July; we might possibly spend some time with Cavalli before then. With Kornberg's department next door, and Henry Kaplan in radiology nearby, we ~~are~~ are looking forward to an exciting environment. I hope we can find some way, one fashion or another, to bring your own influence into it. Time enough to talk about that. I've just gotten to know ~~Kaplan~~ Kaplan during the last few months and find him an extraordinary person, especially considering the large part of his time he spends in medical practice. He is one of the prime movers of Stanford Medical School, and fortunate we are for it.

That doesn't mean I agree completely with his interpretation of his own experiments on the X-ray induction of leukemia. It seems so obvious that the thymic transplants are responding to the intense lymphopoietic stimulus of X-ray depletion of the marrow and that transplants of unrayed marrow inhibit this response primarily by competing with the thymic tissue, perhaps even repopulating the thymus ~~in~~ itself. Anyhow, there are some straightforward genetic labelling experiments to do, and H.K. is of course very much aware of their importance. I was particularly pleased that he is already maintaining an extensive colony of inbred mouse lines (there is another one at Berkeley too under DeGme) so we can start thinking of getting down to business on somatic cell genetics with minimum hindrance. Kaplan's system also looks an unavoidable one to try in looking for antibody formation in transplantable tumors. Do you have any evidence on the production of antibody by thymus cells?

All best wishes

Johnson